



Reservoir Committee of Envision Arlington

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM.

Location: Via Zoom

Attendance: Yuija Wang, David White, George Stephans, Stephan Miller, Johanna Meyer.

Regrets: Jenifer Tidwell, Isabella Jardin, Anne Le Royer.

Notes –

1. Check-ins and Observations from around the Res.

- a. Water chestnut Harvester started today. Beach is open. Duckling family feeding in spillway. The ducklings had recently acquired their feathers and were in-and-out of Mill Brook.
- b. Discussed logs and other debris blocking the primary spillway gate and its impact on water level and water flowing in the aux spillway.
- c. The newly harvested water chestnuts were being put in the aux spillway and could float downstream Resolution: move coir logs from dam spillway next workday (DPW added three more coconut coir logs to stop the chestnuts from floating away.)
- d. The group discussed the harvester's performance and possible improvements for water chestnut removal. The harvesting is happening at a much better earlier time this year. The contract is for 10 days of work.
- e. Discussed plant growth, signage placement at Trader Joes stairs, and obtaining permission for signs along bike path and possibly Heights Bus Station,

2. Accepted previous meeting notes.

3. Habitat Garden.

- a. Garden update – Issues regarding dog poop bags and missing plants at Arlington Reservoir discussed. Perhaps more signage near the garden asking people not to take plants, as well as posting something on the Arlington Reservoir Committee Facebook page. (Plant theft has been a problem since the garden was first installed.)
- b. This led to a discussion of the durability of biodegradable bags and bottles, concerns about the environmental impact of non-compostable materials and ideas for encouraging better behaviors with signage.
- c. There has been quite sufficient rain so far this season. Keep an eye on dryness in the remaining summer months.
- d. Watering - Send out a watering schedule for July and August.
- e. Garden Tour Visit requested - Offer July workday July 22nd (Poll Stephan and Jenifer can attend) UPDATE: Mystic Charles River Native Plants requested if adding the Habitat Garden possible to their garden tour on Aug 5th or Sept 30th What dates would be best? Jenifer and Stephan to be polled.

- f. Invasive Plant Control- The group discussed invasive plant control, working on a fence line along with mugwort, and burdock removal.
4. Water Chestnut plant hand harvesting event – July 8 noon to 3 (write up ad/poster for town distribution).
- a. Update - MyWRA who is running the event reports that it is full at 30 volunteers. Only open for Bring your own Kayak and Rake from the shore.
 - b. Need to provide water and other refreshments for the workers. Perhaps also access to the Res bathrooms.
5. Workdays.
- a. Saturday July 1, 9-11 then walk around. Not a lot to do.
 - b. July 8th **12-3 WATER CHESTNUT** Harvesting event
 - c. Organize a WC harvesting event on our own on Aug 5?
7. Future Activities.
- a. Discussed setting up a schedule for recruiting people to participate in their project.
 - b. Next meeting –July 18, Next workday July 1ST , July 8th, July 22nd
8. Other-Arlington Reservoir Sign at Trader Joe's to Arlington Reservoir, possibly additional signs
9. Action Items-
- a. Send date to Mystic Charles River Gardeners for visit July 22nd- they may arrange for August
 - b. Confirm numbers for Water chestnut pull (18 so far added Bring your own Kayak/canoe and 4 land spots) July 8th
 - c. Get permission for sign at Trader Joe's
 - d. Send out Summer Watering Schedule

Version date: 7/3/23